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Response to Office Action dated July 15, 2004
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Art Unit: 2112
Examiner: Patel
Docket No. RPS9 2001 0137 US1

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 were presented and examined. The Examiner objected to informalities in the specification. The Examiner rejected claims 19-20 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-20, and 22-23 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e), as being anticipated by McGraw et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0188709). The Examiner rejected claims 6, 14, and 21 under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over McGraw in view of the admitted prior art. In this response, Applicant has amended claims 2, 3, 5, 18-20, and 22 and canceled claim 1. Claims 2-22 remain pending.

Specification Objections

The Examiner objected to informalities in the abstract as filed. In response, Applicant has submitted a replacement abstract that complies with the word count limitation. Applicant believes that the replacement abstract is compliant with the MPEP requirements and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

Claim rejections under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 19-20 under Section 112, second paragraph as indefinite. In response, Applicant has amended the claims to correct the typographical errors in the rejected claims. Applicant believes that claims 19 and 20 as amended are fully compliant with the requirements of Section 112 and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Claim rejections under 35 USC § 102(e), 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-20, and 22-23 under 35 USC § 102(e), as being anticipated by McGraw et al. The Examiner rejected claims 6, 14, and 21 under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over McGraw in view of the admitted prior art.

In response to the anticipation rejection of independent claim 1, Applicant has canceled claim 1 and rewritten claim 2 in independent form to incorporate all of the elements of claim as

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originally presented. Applicant has also amended all claims that previously depended on claim 1 to depend now on claim 2.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 2. Claim 2 recites a data processing system having a main processor, memory, a tamper mechanism, and means for determining geographical address information including a local service processor connected to a set of physical identification connector pins indicative of the geographical address. The Examiner rejected claim 2 as anticipated by McGraw.

The anticipation rejection of McGraw is improper because the reference does not teach a local service processor connected to a set of physical connector pins indicative of the geographical address of a slot in which the system is inserted. Supporting the rejection of claim 2, the Examiner indicates that McGraw discloses a local service processor connected to a set of physical connector pins indicative of the geographical address of a slot in which the system is inserted at paragraphs 147-149. The cited portion of McGraw read as follows:

[0147] Detects and identifies itself (Slot and Chassis ID); determines if it is designated as a backup console server; and/or responds to command issued to it by the console server. In the case that the Slave Blade has also been designated as a backup console server, it is responsible for the detection of the dysfunction of the console server and is capable of taking over the console server function.

[0148] The steps that the Slave Blade would go through are as follows:

[0149] (i) On power up, the slave blade determines its identity in the chassis along with details regarding the version of software and firmware running on it. The identity is defined as the Chassis and the Slot-Number that it is in. If it determines that its Slot number is either 1 or 2 and that it's "Master bit" has not been set, it concludes that it has the potential of becoming the backup console server; (ii) if a Slave Blade is not a backup console server, then it waits for commands from the console server and responds with appropriate replies; and (iii) if the Slave Blade is also a backup console server, then in addition to replying to commands from the console server, it monitors for traffic on the local RS-485 bus. If it notices there is no activity on the Local RS-485 bus, it concludes that console server is non-operational and it performs the recovery procedure that it has been programmed to execute.

Applicant would respectfully submit that no one in this passage, or anywhere else within the cited reference is the claimed limitation taught. McGraw merely states that a slave determines its slot. There is no discussion or suggestion within McGraw as to how the blade determines its slot. In sharp contrast, the claim recites a specific mechanism for a blade to determine its slot, namely, through a set of dedicated wires connected between the blade's service processor and dedicated connector pins that indicate the slot to the service processor.

A Section 102 rejection is appropriate only when the cited reference discloses all of the limitations in the claims. Because the cited reference does not disclose the limitations recited in the claims, Applicant would respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 2 and its dependent claims (claims 3-8).

With respect to the anticipation rejection of independent claim 9, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. The Office Action indicates that McGraw teaches that each blade includes a tamper mechanism configured to change state responsive to insertion of the corresponding blade into a slot in a rack enclosure. Supporting this argument, the Office Action does not cite any particular text in the reference, but instead indicates merely that FIG. 6 of the reference discloses this element.

McGraw does not teach that each blade has a tamper mechanism configured to change state upon insertion into a rack slot. FIG. 6 of McGraw is a table described in McGraw as a selection chart for mapping responsibility of a plurality of computing devices. This table contains information including whether there is a blade present in slot 1 of a system and whether there is a blade present in slot 2. Presumably this table of McGraw is updated periodically to reflect whether blade are present or absent from the indicated slots.

Unlike the claim limitation under discussion, however, there is no teaching in McGraw that each server blade includes a tamper mechanism that changes state when the blade is inserted into a rack slot. The existence of the table depicted in FIG. 6 does not in any way disclose a blade-resident tamper mechanism that changes state upon insertion into a rack slot. The information of FIG. 6 of McGraw merely teaches that there exists a repository of information indicating which blades are populated (and some additional information). The mere disclosure of the existence of a table of information indicating whether certain blade slots are populate does

not anticipate a claim limitation of a server blade that includes a tamper mechanism that changes state. The information maintained in FIG 6 of McGraw does not in any way require a mechanism resident on the blade itself that alters its state when it is inserted into a blade slot.

If, for example, two blades were interchanged between slot 1 and slot 2, the information regarding slot population disclosed in FIG 6 of McGraw would not be altered because both slots remain populated. In contrast, the server blades according to the claim limitations recited in claim 9 would have altered tamper mechanisms. Thus, McGraw simply does not disclose all of the limitations of claim 9 and, accordingly, Applicant would respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 9 and its dependent claims (claims 10-17).

With respect to the rejection of independent claim 18, Applicant has amended the claim to recite means for determining the impedance of a tamper latch of a data processing system. Because support for this limitation is found in the disclosure as originally submitted (see, e.g., paragraph beginning on page 7, line 13), the amendment presents no new matter.

The cited reference does not teach a method or code for determining the impedance of a tamper latch of a data processing system. McGraw does not contain any mention or suggestion of an impedance based tamper mechanism on its blades. The impedance based tamper mechanisms of the present invention beneficially provide a "nonvolatile" mechanism for determining whether a blade has been inserted into a new slot, which is desirable information for tracking the location of servers blades in a blade based system. Accordingly, Applicant would respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the anticipation rejection of claim 18 as amended and its dependent claims (claims 19-23).


CONCLUSION

In this response, Applicant has addressed the Examiner's objections, claim rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, claim rejections under 35 USC § 102(e), and claim rejections under 35 USC § 103(a). Accordingly, Applicant believes that this response constitutes a complete response to each of the issues raised in the office action. In light of the amendments made herein and the accompanying remarks, Applicant believes that the pending claims are in

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condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant would request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections, allow the pending claims, and advance the application to issue. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney would welcome and encourage a telephone conference at 512.428.9872.

Respectfully submitted,
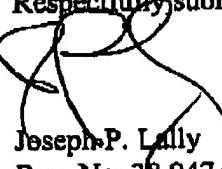
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